

RYAN TRAVIS CHRISTIAN

b. 1983 Oakland, CA

Lives and works in Chicago, IL

EDUCATION

2007 BFA, Northern Illinois University

SOLO / TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *This Shit is for the Birdies*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
Joakim Ojanen and Ryan Travis Christian, The Hole, New York, NY
- 2015 *Ryan Travis Christian & T.L. Solien*, Left Field, San Luis Obispo, CA
- 2014 *Check please!*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
That Ain't Jazz, Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2013 *Well, Here We Aren't Again*, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC
American Landscapes and Stuff, Trailer Park Projects, Puerto Rico
- 2012 *The Second Banana*, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco CA
Something Something Black Something, Halsey McKay, East Hampton NY
John Riepenhoff Experience Presents - RTC Collaborates, Pepin Moore, Los Angeles CA
It Ain't Conceptual, CooperCole, Toronto ON
- 2011 *River Rats/RTC Collaborates*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
Sad Sacks, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Well, Time Makes Fools of Us All*, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA
New Work, POVEvolving, Los Angeles, CA
Antexspagna, EBERSMOORE, Chicago, IL
WEED DEMON, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Heatwave*, Granite City Art and Design District (G-CADD), Granite City, IL
Zing Zam Blunder, Harbinger Projects, Reykjavik, Iceland
Fake News, CES Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Ocotillo, Stella Elkins Tyler Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Underlying system is not known, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
The Nothing That Is: A Drawing Show in 5 Parts, curated by Matt Distel and Bill Thelen, The Carnegie, Covington, KY
Periscope, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland ME
Ocotillo, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia PA

- 2016 *Em Kettner, Kyle Breitenbach, and Ryan Travis Christian*, Harpy Gallery, Rutherford NJ
Quiet Please, The Inn Gallery, Los Angeles CA
Velvet Ropes, GIFC Worldwide, New York NY
LTD Wear, LVL3, Chicago IL
Thick As Paper Thin, Brilliant Champions, Brooklyn NY
Geo Necro, Ada Gallery, Richmond VA
6/2016, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco CA
- 2015 *Gatherings & Conversations*, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA
White House Black Market, Kimberly-Klark, Queens, NY
Mysterious Muck, Circuit 12 Contemporary, Dallas, TX
Fence, Threewalls, Chicago IL
Happily Until Their Deaths, Narwhal Contemporary, Toronto ON
Who Me?, curated by Daniel Albrigo, Atak Gallery, San Francisco, CA
IRVINGVARIETY, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Selfie, curated by HuskMitNavn, Gallery Steinsland Berliner (GSB), Stockholm, Sweden
The Nothing That Is – a drawing show in five parts, curated by Bill Thelen. CAM Raleigh, NC.
“That’s My Trip”, curated by Andrea Shoultz, Joshua Liner Gallery
Inaugural Group Show, Left Field, San Luis Obispo, CA
PRTY PPL, Curated by Josh Reames, Circuit 12 Contemporary, Dallas, TX
Group Show, ChinaTown Project, San Francisco CA
Interface, Water Street Studios, Aurora IL
Potshop, Tusk, Chicago IL
Jug Life, Park Life, San Francisco CA
- 2014 *Deluxe Projects LA/CHI presents: Pareidolia*, Red Pipe Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Rocket Run: Abstraction from Chicago. Elder Gallery, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE
I’m Jealous Of Your Failure, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal IL
We do what we like and we like what we do, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
HEAD, Western Exhibitions, Chicago IL
Buying Friends, UICA, Grand Rapids MI
Ghoost Show IV, Imagination Giants, Milwaukee WI
If They Mated, The Honey Hole, Chicago IL
Home At Last, Andres Guerrero Project, San Francisco CA
We Do What We Like and We Like What We Do, Western Exhibitions, Chicago IL
Juxtapoz Psychedelic Release Party, The Well, Los Angeles CA
Welp, Bowbarr, Carrboro NC
- 2013 *TELL THEM I HATE THEM*. Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.
Group Show, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco CA
These Friends, Finale, THIS Gallery, Los Angeles CA
Milestone #1, Circuit 12 Contemporary, Dallas TX
- 2012 *Pig Party 8.3*, curated by Gina Beavers, Bowery, New York NY
Black Foliage 2.0, Nudashank, Baltimore MD
Black Foliage, Chinatown Arcade, NYC NY
Gin & Juice, Ivory & Black, London UK
Still Here Now, Mohs Exhibit, Copenhagen DN
Cigarettes, Phone Cards, & Hip Hop Clothing, FFDG, San Francisco CA
Living By Example, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago IL

- 2011 *Group Show*, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco CA
Double Breaks, Double Break, San Diego CA
Art We Like, Deer Run, Cambria CA
This Place In Time, Show and Tell Gallery, Toronto ON
Club Nutz @ Art Since the Summer of 69' New York NY
Domestic Goods, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton NY- curated by Ryan Wallace
New Chicagoans, Co-Prosperity Sphere Chicago IL
Chain Letter, Samson Projects, Boston MA
Territories, Marwen, Chicago IL
SweatBoxing, MAMA Rotterdam, NE
Objectivity, Cornish College for the Arts, Seattle WA
Heads on Poles, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2010 *AH! Wilderness*, EbersMoore, Chicago, IL
Wreck The Walls, Subliminal Projects, Los Angeles, CA
A Guide to Salvation, Space 1026, Philadelphia PA curated by Hilary Pecis
Weed Demon, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Paper! Awesome!, Baer Ridgway Projects, San Francisco, CA
Inaugural Exhibition, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Diverse Chorus, SCOOP, Charleston SC
- 2009 *Infinity*, Scion Installation, Los Angeles, CA
East of Eden, Synchronicity, Los Angeles, CA
Enigmatic Shadow, Synchronicity, Los Angeles, CA
CaBoom, Synchronicity, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 *Titanium Expose*, FFDG, San Francisco, CA
Chimera Frontiera, Junc Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
NFO XPO/Version Fest, Chicago
- 2007 *Mutation Nation*, D.I.Y. Gallery, Los Angeles CA
Brown River, Roots & Culture Contemporary Arts Center, Chicago, IL
KlusterCrusts, Butcher Shop/Dogmatic, Chicago, IL
- 2006 *Where All the D*cks Hang Out*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
Rudolph Projects, Houston, TX

COLLECTIONS

Artist Book Collection, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA
 Artist Book Collection, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA
 Soho House Chicago
 Jager Collection, Amsterdam
 McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL

PUBLIC WORKS

- 2013 *RTC & Friends*, public mural. contributions by Cody Hudson, Jose Lerma, Heidi Norton, Josh Reames, Kate Ruggeri, Adam Scott, Peter Skvara and Geoffrey Todd Smith. Rear exterior wall of the 845 W Washington Building, Chicago IL
Viber, mural for Lollapalooza Music Festival, Grant Park, Chicago IL

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 2017 *Frogmen*, jigsaw puzzle with Morgan Blair. Puzzle Time.

CURATORIAL

- 2017 Eyes, Lips, Nose, Etc. ..., Left Field, San Luis Obispo, CA
- 2016 *How High?*, Left Field, San Luis Obispo, CA
- 2015 *Ryan Travis Christian Presents: 21st Century LOL'S*, Left Field, San Luis Obispo, CA
DucksLa, Minotaur Projects, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 *Ducks*, Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Circuit12 Contemporary, Dallas, TX
- 2012 *Nemesis*, Green Gallery, Milwaukee WI - co curated w/ Ben Stone
Where My Cones At?, POVEvolving, Los Angeles CA.
Where My Cones At, Double Break, San Diego CA
- 2011 *West, Wester, Westest! Pt.2*, FFDG, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Lil' Whitney*, FFDG, San Francisco, CA
The Power of Selection, pt. 1,2 & 3, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Control C, Control V*, EbersB9, Chicago, IL
Sports, Synchronicity, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 *West, Wester, Westest*, FFDG, San Francisco, CA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Juxtapoz. "Ryan Travis Christian Throwing the Birds Some Shade". May 2017.
Puzzle Time. Interview with Ryan Travis Christian by Morgan Blair. April 2017.
Chicago Magazine. Foumberg, Jason. "Dark Arts", March 2017
- 2015 frieze. Luse, Mimi. "The Nothing That Is - A Drawing Show in Five Parts." Issue 175, November-December 2015
under the gum tree: July 2015. Visual Art by Ryan Travis Christian. Publisher: ThinkHouse Collective, Sacramento, California.
Inside/Within. "Ryan Travis Christian's Patterned Obscurity". February 2015

- 2014 [ArtNews.com](#). Chiaverina, John. "Duck Yourself: On Ryan Travis Christian's Very Democratic Group Show About, Well, Ducks." November 4, 2014
[Opening Ceremony](#). Salama, Cecilia. "What The Duck? A Greenpoint Art Show Gets Quacky." October 27
[Strange Plants](#). Baritoux, Zio, editor. Zioxla, publisher.
[The Hundreds](#). Zio. "Ryan Travis Christian :: Check Please!". May 15, 2014
[DAZED](#). Gavin, Francesca. "Top ten artists working with monochrome." April 23, 2014
[Land and Sea #20](#). *Overview*, February 2014
[Juxtapoz Psychedelic](#). Stouffer, Hannah. hard cover. pgs. 170-180 February 2014
- 2013 [New York Times: Travel](#). Dove, Travis. "Old Warehouses Go Beyond Storage in Raleigh, N.C." Apr 14
[Art Papers](#). Lampe, Lilly. "Ryan Travis Christian". April 2013
[Indy Week](#). Vitiello, Chris. "At CAM Raleigh, flattened raindrops and googly eyes." March 6, 2013
[Associated Press](#). "Art, an Act of Creation, Can Involve Destruction." (video). February 22, 2013
[Associated Press](#). Breed, Allen. "In Artist's Show, Creation Merges With Destruction." (Ryan Travis Christian). February 22, 2013
[Lodown Magazine](#). Allister Lee. "Black Is Beautiful" Issue 84, pgs 164-165 December/January/February
- 2012 [Ion Magazine](#), Khan, Aleeza. "Ones To Watch | Ryan Travis Christian", December 28, 2012
[Juxtapoz](#) Issue 144, pgs. 64- 75. December 2012
[NewCity Art](#), "Art 50: Chicago's Artists' Artists", September 19, 2012
[New American Paintings](#), Midwest Issue #101, pgs. 164-167. August 2012
[LVL3](#). Uribe, Vincent. "Artist of the Week: Ryan Travis Christian". May 7, 2012 (interview)
[Frieze](#). "Ryan Travis Christian @ Western Exhibitions" Issue 145. March 2012
- 2011 [New American Paintings Blog](#). Reames, Josh. "Ryan Travis Christian at Western Exhibitions", December 2, 2011.
[art ltd](#). Picard, Caroline. "Ryan Travis Christian." November 2011
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[Daily Serving](#), Curcio, Seth. "Sad Sacks: an Interview with Ryan Travis Christian", March 29, 2011
[Lumpen Magazine](#). "Black + White", Volume 19, # 116, Issue #2, pg.30, March 2011
- 2010 [AFA](#). "Cosmic Puns II, Eric Yahnker and Ryan Travis Christian in Conversation" (interview)
[New City](#). Fomberg, Jason. "2010 Breakout Artists: Chicago's Next Generation of Image Makers". April 29 2010.
[Fecalface.com](#). (interview) online
[New City](#). Hendrickson, Julia V., "Ryan Travis Christian" (review). February 22, 2010
- 2009 [Beautiful Decay](#), Book 2 "What A Mess!" (profile)
[Infinity](#), Scion (exhibition catalogue) (profile)
- 2008 [The Comics Journal](#). "Yeah, But is it Comics?" Issue #291, pg.145, 2008
- 2007 [The Chicago Reader](#). "KlusterCRUSTS" Issue No. 119, pg, 75 KlusterKrusts (Exhibition Catalogue) June 2007.

RYAN TRAVIS CHRISTIAN

b. 1983 Oakland, CA
Chicago, Illinois

Ryan Travis Christian's idiosyncratic style of drawing densely layers graphite pencil to create graphic images featuring amorphous characters including condoms, brick houses, and Mickey Mouse. Inspired by Ub Iwerks, George Condo and the Hairy Who, he renders his figures in both high contrast and slow motion, inserting them into hazy sfumato-esque landscapes and skewed spaces alike that repeatedly melt and coalesce. Christian's surreal personal narratives are fueled by the absurdity of life in his small, suburban-Chicago hometown with recurring themes of fires, wheelchairs, heavy petting, fireworks, drugs and alcohol, rivers, boats, beaten-up cars, death, homes, speed bumps, and cats.

Ryan Travis Christian's solo shows include the Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh, NC; Guerrero Gallery in San Francisco, Halsey McKay in East Hampton, NY and Cooper Cole in Toronto, and has been included in group shows in London, New York City, Rotterdam, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Dallas and Los Angeles His work has been written about in *frieze*, *art ltd*, *Art Papers*, *New American Paintings*, *Daily Serving*, *Indy Week* and the *Associated Press*. *New City* named Christian as one of Chicago's "Breakout Artists" for 2010 and named by the same publication as one of Chicago's "Top 50 Artists' Artists" in 2012. *DAZED* recently named Christian as one of the "top ten artists working with monochrome." He is represented by Western Exhibitions in Chicago and lives and works in the Chicagoland area.